RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

March, 1993

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

MEETING MINUTES

The RNA meeting held on February 9, 1993 was well attended and had a full agenda. Police Captain James Shamburg of the North District spoke about Jersey City's community-based police program and specifically what it would mean for our own community.

In the North District, there are nine residential walking posts. One police officer is assigned to each post, working from 3:45 pm to midnight. Officer Shawn Carson is assigned to Post #6, which covers Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Bowers Street. Officer Steven Sansevere is assigned to Post #8 that includes Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Bowers Street north to Congress Street. (Officer Sansevere is on patrol Monday to Friday because he is also the local D.A.R.E official.) An additional walking patrolman has also been assigned to Palisade Avenue during the daytime hours. Captain Shamburg told RNA that the North District will be getting two motor scooters and the officer patrolling Palisade Avenue will be assigned to one of the scooters.

The Captain plans to have the Officer Shawn Carson attend RNA's meetings to hear first-hand from the residents what and where the problems are. The Captain encouraged all the residents to call Officers Carson and Sansevere to notify them of chronic problems. These quality of life crimes include loud blasting radios and parking violations. **To get in touch with either Community-based Officer Carson or Sansevere, call telephone number 547-5354 and leave a message for them.**

The Captain said that since July of 1992 there has been a 25% increase in manpower in the North District and he hopes for even more officers assigned to the district in the future. He said a proposal to create a Narcotics Squad in the North District, which would strictly investigate drug-dealing in our area, is being considered. He believes that a such a squad would be better than the current city-wide Narcotics Unit because it would address the unique narcotics problems in the Heights.

On the subject of parking, the Captain said he is still working on the problem of commercial vehicles parking overnight on streets in the Heights. Tickets are being issued and the police hope to get the situation under control.

The Captain issued a warning: Don't walk up Paterson Plank Road from Hoboken. Police are aware of a group from

(continued on page two)

RNA ELECTIONS

It's time once again to elect new officers for RNA. The following names have been placed in nomination for these positions for the 1993-1994 term. The nominations will remain open until the March meeting at which time they will be closed and the vote taken.

To be eligible to vote and to hold office, you must have paid your annual 1993 dues and live within the constitutional boundaries of the Association. The boundaries are Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Congress Street.

The following persons have been nominated so far:

CHAIRPERSON:	Russell Pratt Ernest Quintero
VICE- CHAIR:	Peter Allen Russell Pratt Ernest Quintero
SECRETARY:	Kathy Brennan Bea Higgins Suzanne Maroon
TREASURER:	Jack Rea
SGT.-AT-ARMS:	Marie Tuzzo Harry Siano

We ask everyone to participate in this important neighborhood activity. It is necessary for all residents to have a voice in decisions being made in their own community.

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH
AT 7:15 PM
AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) Annual Election of RNA Officers

2) Discussion of this year's upcoming FLEA MARKET

Meeting Minutes (continued)

Hoboken that committed a mugging and then ran back down to Hoboken. Police have set up a surveillance but as of yet have not apprehended anyone yet. Regarding the closed cliff roads, the Captain publicly stated that he fully supports the reopening of Mountain Road to improve the security of the neighborhood.

The Captain also informed RNA that there has been a six week burglary program that netted 17 arrests. He said that burglars use several methods to check if anyone is home, including surveilling a house, knocking on the door, calling on the telephone and posing as a utility person.

Riverview-Fiske Park came up in the discussion. The Captain said it is difficult to enforce a curfew, but he will have Officer Carson tell everyone to get out of the Park at 10 pm. He stated that a sign notifying the public of the 10 pm closing must be posted in the Park.

The next speaker was Pattie Gordon, a vice-president of the Jersey City Historical Preservation Association, who spoke about the upcoming Council vote to buy the Loew 's Theatre for $325,000.00 from Hartz Mountain. (As of February 10th, The Jersey City City Council approved the purchase of the Theatre.)

Ms. Gordon stressed that the Theatre is an important part of the revitalization of Journal Square. She said it's been proven that restoring old theatres help revive run-down urban areas across the country. The hope is that the reopening of the Loew's Theatre would bring back a healthy night life to Journal Square and culture to Jersey City. At the end of the discussion, RNA voted to support the purchase of the Theatre.

The never-ending problem of our local mail delivery was brought up next. A suggestion was made to write a letter to the Postal Service stating that our local carrier, Karen is doing an outstanding job and to stop blaming her for the Ogden Avenue delivery problems. It was also decided to invite Postal officials from Newark to a future meeting for a face-to-face discussion of this issue.

Next, we opened the nominations for RNA officers for the 1993-1994 term. The nominations will remain open till the end of the March meeting, at which time the elections will be held.

Chair Maria Tuzzo suggested that we think about when RNA should hold its next Flea Market, either this spring or next fall. This topic will be on the March agenda. Before the meeting adjourned, Mrs. Marie Tuzzo was congratulated for becoming a great grandmother.

Please join us on Tuesday, March 9th for our next meeting at the Harbor View Health care Center at 7:30 pm. Don't forget to bring your annual RNA dues.

Margaret McCorry,Secretary

IT'S NEVER TO EARLY TO START PLANNING!

RNA is making plans for our next annual Flea Market. It is a large undertaking and requires many volunteers. Please come to the next RNA meeting if you can help organize this event, or even if you just have some suggestions for its success. We need your help!

View from the Chair

How often have you heard the statement, "somebody should do something about that." In fact, you have most likely said the same thing yourself many times. The trouble is that we always see "somebody" in the person of our friends or our neighbors. We never see ourselves as the "somebody" to do something. Why not, I wonder?

Our friends, neighbors, and even our legislators are just people. Different sizes, shapes, motives and ideas - but still just people. Just like us! The only difference I can see is that the "somebodies" of this world are those who are willing to step forward and be noticed as a someone. An individual! Not just part of the crowd.

While the "crowd" is a comfortable place to be, it is not the place to get things done. Crowds get moving when "somebody" leads them. Neighborhood associations are a lot like the crowd, made up of many ordinary people but needing somebody to point the direction. That is why we have elections of officers, to insure that our "crowd" has leadership.

As a member of RNA, you are already a part of the "crowd." So take a step forward and don't be afraid to be SOMEBODY.

Maria Tuzzo, Chair

CONRAD'S CORNER

When the early Christians were being persecuted, they worshipped in the catacombs of Rome until they became strong and were able to build their first Christian churches. So it was with Ascension Church on South Street and New York Avenue when it burned down about six years ago, except that they had enough funds of their own to rebuild a new church. But Bishop Spong seized the funds and would not give them back to the Church.

The congregation was outraged but they were able to raise enough funding again to do over the basement. It was just as if Christ was watching and helping them. But then the Bishop sent an emissary with instructions to close the Church and tear it down. The members of the congregation thought this was like the work of the devil because it was hard to comprehend why the diocese would do this after they worked so hard to rebuild their Church.

Have Episcopalians become a commercial venture? Look at Christ Hospital's one mile of private property which is not paying taxes and yet charges patients and visitors alike for parking! Christ Hospital tore down a lot of housing which had been paying taxes, to build their giant parking lot on the cliff.

Since it seems the Episcopal Church is no longer a religious institution but is a profitable commercial venture, it should pay taxes as any other private company does.

The funds taken away from Ascension Church are enough to buy up some more houses along Palisade Avenue for Christ Hospital which will take the properties off the tax lists. As Christ Hospital acquires more and more property along the Avenue and takes them off the tax lists, it is the Jersey City homeowners who will make up the difference with an increase in their own taxes.

A NEW PERSHING FIELD ICE HOCKEY RINK?

Dear Mayor Schundler,

The Jersey Journal published a public notice on February 15, 1993 announcing that the City is taking bids and going ahead with the erection of a new ice hockey rink in Pershing Field Park.

Considering the fiscal straits that Jersey City is faced with, I think this project should be postponed.

The new hockey rink is, at best, of limited service top the general population of Jersey City. It is being built to serve about two hundred hockey players - many of whom do not reside in Jersey City.

The interest payments needed to finance the project would be equivalent to the current property tax imposed on about one hundred houses in the immediate area of Pershing Field.

In view of the fact that our City is currently operating without a fiscal budget in place I remind you that all of the moneys spent to the date of the final passage of the 1992-93 budget will have to be included in that budget. The tax rate will have to reflect all these expenditures regardless of the amount of increase over last year's rate.

I ask that the Pershing Field Ice Hockey Rink project be tabled or stopped for the present.

Herbert Huels
Pershing Field Neighborhood Association

SPECIAL THANKS TO RNA

The Salvation Army would like to thank all the members of RNA who contributed to their Holiday effort for 1992. The contributions, either in the form of food or toys, were shared with those less fortunate during the holiday season.

The Salvation Army expresses its gratitude to RNA for once again giving of themselves selflessly.

ART EXHIBITION

Sharon Duffy, a former neighbor and RNA member, is having an exhibit of her art at the First Street Gallery. It is located at 560 Broadway, Room 402 in New York City. The show is entitled "Paintings and Works on Paper." It will run from February 23 to March 13th. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is soliciting material for our newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers are interested in. Would you like to thank someone? Maybe you would like to complain about something. How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe, whether it is a family heirloom or something you just found out about. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

Drop off your contributions in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Avenue. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTERS."

MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's time to pay your RNA annual membership dues of $5.00 per person. Membership entitles you to full participation and voting rights in RNA, including the the annual election for executive officers. It also entitles you to nine issues of the RNA newsletter.

Bring your dues in person to the March meeting, or mail a check, made out to Riverview Neighborhood Association, to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey, 07307.

MARCH

March winds blow but Spring is on the way,
St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day,
Thinking of our Annual Elections of Officers and the RNA Flea Market,
TOP-OF-THE-MORNING-TO YOU-ALL!

Madeline Rea

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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JERSEY CITY RECYCLING

Here is the official list of recyclable materials that are collected in Jersey City:

PAPER: NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, CARDBOARD, GIFT BOXES, JUNK MAIL, SCHOOL PAPER, OFFICE PAPER, COMPUTER PAPER, TELEPHONE BOOKS

PLASTICS: SODA BOTTLES, MILK CONTAINERS, WATER CONTAINERS, FOOD BOTTLES

GLASS: SODA BOTTLES, BEER BOTTLES, FOOD JARS

CANS: ALUMINUM, TIN, STEEL (NO CHEMICAL OR PAINT CANS)

Our neighborhood pick-up day is WEDNESDAY. Remember, paper products should be separate but glass, plastic, and metal can be grouped together. for more information, call the INCINERATOR AUTHORITY: 432-4645.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to announce the official expansion of the northern boundaries of the Riverview Neighborhood Association from Bowers Street to Congress Street on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues. (Riverview Neighborhood Association will now represent residents living on Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.)

Adopted: December 12, 1992

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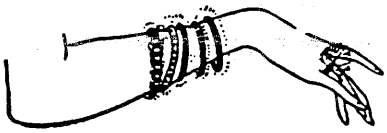

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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE RNA NEWSLETTER, PLEASE MAIL (2) OF YOUR BUSINESS CARDS AND A CHECK [EITHER $10/ONE MONTH OR $60/NINE MONTHS] TO RNA, 232 OGDEN AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07307.

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

PLEASE COME TO THE NEXT RNA MEETING
ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH at 7:15 PM

CR-18
BRUNETTI, V.
232 OGDEN AVE.
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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S
DAY

An Irish Blessing:
Life is like "A cup of
Tea,"
It's how you make
it.

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FLEA MARKET

NEWSLETTER

ASCENSION CHURCH

As we go to press, Ascension Church is finally be forced to close its doors. On February 28th, the Diocese of Newark plans to hold a final service at the church. The people of Ascension have no desire to participate in this "service of thanksgiving" for the proposed death of their church. However, they do believe it is important for them to be present at that time as a form of public protest and so they intend to gather at New York Avenue and South Street to demonstrate their feelings.

They believe that their purpose is to remain together as a congregation to worship God and try to meet the spiritual needs of their community. They hope that their continued presence will serve as witness to the forcible taking of their money and property.

They ask that their neighbors pray for them and for the day when Ascension shall be released from the tryanny of the Newark diocese.